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ABSTRACT

This book explores how standards are bringing about changes in elementary schools and conveys what standards-based education in elementary schools looks and feels like. Chapter 1 tells the story of Andrew as an emblem of the common fate of children in an educational system that did not know its purpose. Chapter 2 sketches the history and development of standards. The third chapter lays out standards in literacy, mathematics, history/social studies, and science, though not as a compendium, but as an introduction to their content and use. Chapter 4 describes why American education is not meeting these standards now. Chapter 5 confronts the question of how to achieve the standards. Chapter 6 discusses issues presented by technology in school and at home, for students and for teachers. Chapter 7 tackles issues that loom over standards-based education and threaten the reform it brings--accountability and assessment. Chapter 8 offers recommendations to administrators, parents, university faculties, and state and local elected officials, who can make a difference in this nation's quality of education. Appendix A describes how to recognize a good elementary school. Appendix B presents the language of standards. Appendix C presents standards for the arts and world languages. Appendix D contains standards documents. (Contains 69 references.) (RT)

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